

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3629

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, KE, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN CONDOLENCES FOR KENYATTA

1. THE ESSENCE OF TANGOV STATEMENTS ABOUT KENYAN PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S DEATH IS THAT KENYATTA WAS A LEADER IN THE AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN BUT AS A SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN POLITICAL FIGURE HE DIED SOME TIME AGO.

2. PRESIDENT NYERERE'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO ACTING PRESIDENT MOI CALLED KENYATTA "ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICAN FREEDOM. HE BEGAN WORKING AGAINST COLONIAL RULE WHEN MANY OF AFRICA'S PRESENT LEADERS WERE STILL AT SCHOOL." BEYOND TRIBUTES TO HIS ROLE IN THE LIBERATION EFFORT, NYERERE'S MESSAGE SEEMED ALMOST CRITICAL. OF KENYATTA'S VISION IT WAS SAID THAT "AS HE GOT OLDER MZEE KENYATTA BECAME VERY KENYAN, PERHAPS EVEN PAROCHIAL. BUT HIS CONTRIBUTION TO PAN-AFRICANISM MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN." OF KENYATTA'S NON-ROLE IN THE DECLINE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY: "NO SETBACK IN THE PROGRESS OF OUR COMMON AMBITION FOR UNITY IN EAST AFRICA COULD SHAKE OR REDUCE THE GREAT RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND WARM AFFECTION WITH WHICH THE PEOPLE, THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA HAVE REGARDED AND DO REGARD MZEE JOMO KENYATTA.
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IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO ATTRIBUTE TO MZEE KENYATTA PERSONALLY EVENTS WHICH HE WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO CONTROL."

3. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF AUGUST 23 WAS IN THE SAME VEIN, PRAISING KENYATTA'S ROLE IN AFRICAN LIBERATION, BUT OBLIQUELY CRITICIZING HIM FOR "STRENGTHENING A MIDDLE CLASS THAT IS NOW AMONG THE

MOST POWERFUL ON THE CONTINENT" AND FOR REMAINING ABOVE
"THE INTRIGUES THAT SOMETIMES APPEARED TO BE THE MAIN
ACTIVITIES OF SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS."

4. COMMENT. NYERERE'S RESPECT FOR KENYATTA AS A PIONEER
IN AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE IS GENUINE. IT HAS WITHSTOOD THE
DECLINE IN KENYAN-TANZANIAN RELATIONS AND NYERERE'S BELIEF
THAT KENYATTA SOLD OUT TO CAPITALISM. PREVAILING TANGOV
VIEW IS THAT PROBLEMS WITH KENYA WERE CAUSED BY KENYANS WHO
CONSPIRED WITHOUT KENYATTA'S KNOWLEDGE. TANGOV EXPECTS
THAT POWER WILL NOW FULLY FALL TO THESE SAME PEOPLE
AND THUS HAS NO EXPECTATIONS THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN
KENYA WILL SOON OCCUR.

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